

## From Where We Stand . . .

### World Famine By 1975?

We note more and more concern from some quarters on the worsening world food-population crisis. Comments range from the usual "surplus and over-production" lament to "cannibalism in the space age".

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freyman told midwest farm groups last week, the factor that has changed the rosy farm picture of a few months ago is the same old problem — over-production. He said that Russia and Australia had bumper crops of grain last year, and that this cut into our exports.

Meanwhile, back at the Washington ranch, the USDA's April Feed Situation report shows the feed grain reserve by October 1st will be about one-half of the 40-50 million ton-level USDA has called safe. It seems farmers signed up to divert several million more acres from feed grain production than USDA had hoped.

Neither of these official statements and reports are going to do much to cheer the U.S.-should-feed-the-world advocates. In fact, there seems to be an increasing awareness that we are not equal to that task.

A review of an upcoming book called "Famine — 1975" suggests that time has already run out. That there is no longer any question of our being able to stop the inevitable course of famine. It reportedly maintains that our only decision now is who will live and who will die? Which of the developing countries should we help, and which should we forsake? The reviewer credits the authors with the theory that India, now the greatest recipient of U.S. aid, is beyond saving, and should be abandoned to help countries that are more strategically important and salvable.

Another organization concerned with world food problems — the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations — quoted several authorities this week to the effect that an upsurge of cannibalism could be the product of impending famine.

FAO quotes Dr. Frank Laubach, president of Laubach Literacy, Inc. Speaking of peoples in the famine-threatened countries who are dying from starvation at the rate of 10,000 persons a day, Laubach said "they're frightening, and they're dangerous because they are desperate".

Laubach adds that these people, for the most part, are illiterate, and are hungry because they are ignorant. They have no concept of modern agriculture.

### ANSWER IS YOUTH

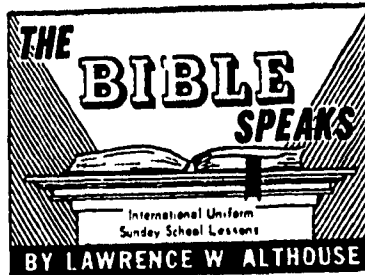
A farm machinery manufacturer, Massey-Ferguson, believes as Laubach does, that the answer is education. The company is providing financial support for an FAO program called the "Young World Food and Development Project".

Realizing that the effort to change adult farming habits in those underdeveloped countries is useless, the program emphasizes education of future farmers. The YWFD is designed to work through rural youth movements in more than 60 developing countries. It is hoped that over the next 15 years the size and scope of youth programs can be doubled. During that time, it is estimated, more than 30 million young people will have been actively involved.

Who is right and who is wrong on this question? It is not an easy thing to say that it is too late for billions of people in dozens of countries. If the time comes when such a decision has to be made, we feel certain it will not be made lightly.

In the meantime, it is reassuring to know that efforts are being extended through the United Nations, and supported by American industry, to teach the future farmers in these underdeveloped countries sound farming principles.

As for the federal government's role in agriculture, it looks like it will go in one of two directions — direct subsidies underwriting food production, or, out of the farm program business altogether. There appears to be strong official support for both of these moves, and worsening food conditions could hasten either action.



### Something to Explain

Lesson for April 30, 1967

Background Scripture Acts 4:1-22  
Devotional Reading Romans 10:8-17

In the early chapters of Acts there are a number of passages that are often referred to as the "sermons of Peter." This, however, is a misnomer, for these utterances are nothing like what we know today as "sermon." They are not planned or even anticipated by Peter. In fact, it is apparent in these chapters that the early church had no strategy or program at all for communicating the gospel and winning converts. No one prepared himself for street-corner sermons or public debates. How then do we explain these "sermons" of Peter?



Rev. Althouse

When we study these "sermons", we discover that each time Peter "preaches" it is not a planned speaking occasion, but an attempt to answer an urgent question. On the first such occasion, the day of Pentecost, people witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit working mightily in the lives of the followers of the Nazarene. "What does this mean?" they wanted to know. What is commonly called "Peter's first sermon," then, is simply an answer, an attempt to explain "What's going on here?"

We see this same pattern again at the gate of the temple (Acts 3): An astonished crowd wants to know how Peter and John were able to heal the crippled beggar. Again, Peter attempts to explain: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this . . . ?"

Once more in Acts 4 we find that another of Peter's "sermons" is — simply an attempt to answer a question. "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Once more people want to know "What's going on here?" Once more Peter can give the same answer: "Jesus Christ!" "Be it known

to you all . . . that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth . . . this man is standing before you well" (Acts 4:10 RVS).

### All They Had

In each circumstance the little band of disciples had been channels of God's power. People witnessed this power and, amazed, could not help asking, "What's going on here?" Thus, the earliest "sermons," the earliest attempts to witness for Christ, were simply attempts to answer a question and explain the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps then, our problem in evangelism today, in communicating the gospel, is not so much a lack of zeal, of cleverness, or expertise in either theology or communication, but the absence of the Spirit from our lives. Often we are in the position of giving Peter's answer to "What's going on here?" to people who aren't asking the question because they don't see anything "going on." We are witnessing to a power with which it seems we are not personally acquainted.

This was the only thing the primitive church had. It had no lofty theology or philosophy to attract those who were shopping for some new idea. It had no mysterious ritual to draw the curious. These people lacked education, culture, training, money, power, and influence. By themselves there were a most unimpressive lot. Yet, it became evident that they did "have something." That "something" was God's power shining through those otherwise-unimpressive lives.

### Nothing So Compelling

There is nothing so compelling today as a life in which the power of God is evident. That power may, but need not, be spectacular. The style of one's life may be just as impressive as a striking gift. The important thing is that we have something to explain, something to inspire those questions: "How did you give up the bottle?" "How do you stand a job like that?" "Why are you always so cheerful?" "What makes you so trustful?" "You're a different person: how come?"

Today, as in the beginning of the church, we need not compose sermons in order to witness. All that is required of us is that we have an answer when someone wants to know: "What's going on here?" The answer, of course, however we say it, is "Jesus Christ!"

Do you have something to explain?

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MANOR FFA CHAPTER OFFICERS elected recently are from left (front row) Richard Rohrer, treasurer; Barry Acker, vice president; Clair Erb, president; and Nelson Newcomer, secretary, (back row) Garland E. Gingerich, agriculture teacher, Bruce Frey, sentinel, Abe Fisher, reporter; and Dan Ditzler, chaplain.

### C. Erb Named President Manor FFA Chapter

At a recent meeting of the Manor Chapter Future Farmers of America, officers were elected for 1967-68. Named chapter president was Clair Erb, a junior at Penn Manor High School. He is the son of

Mr and Mrs Daniel Erb of Columbia R2

Other officers elected were vice president, Barry Acker, Willow Street R1, secretary, Nelson Newcomer, Washington Boro R1, treasurer, Richard Rohrer, Lancaster R2; reporter, Abe Fisher, Lancaster R2 sentinel, Bruce Frey, Millersville R1, and chaplain, Dan Ditzler, Millersville

Members also elected the following committee chairmen

general committee, John Martin public relations, Claude Miller community service, LeRoy Eshleman, recreation, Ken Nissley leadership, Dave Kilheffer conduct of meetings, John Best cooperative activities Larry Hainish and supervised farming Dave Hoover

The idea of raising taxes to halt inflation goes back to the Fall of Rome. It worked there

## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

### To Ensure Winter Rye

Livestock producers who are planning to make silage from winter rye should try to get the crop harvested in the late boot to heading stage. This is at an earlier stage of maturity than the other small grains in order to get improved palatability. Most winter grains are at the peak of feeding value in the flowering (blossom) stage. Some feed additive ensiled with the winter grain silage will improve the feed value.

### To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

Growers who made a straight alfalfa seeding earlier this spring, and did not use Eptam before seeding are urged to spray the field with 2,4-DB when the small weeds are 1 to 2 inches high. Spring seedings without oats as a nurse crop, must be sprayed for weed control either before or after the alfalfa seeding. Even though the stand of weeds appear scant when the above height, the spray should be applied when the weeds get larger and begin to crowd out the alfalfa, then it is too late to control them easily.

### To Plant Silage Corn Thicker

Corn plants per acre are on the upward trend on most farms to get a larger yield. Some growers are planting with less distance between rows and some are planting thicker on the standard width of row. This is a controversial subject, and it is the opinion that most growers can increase yields with improved cultural practices without going to the extremely narrow rows. Also, since so much em-



SMITH

phasis is being placed on corn silage these days, it is strongly advised to plant corn for silage at least four to five thousand plants per acre thicker than for grain purposes.

Ants live in most areas of the world except at the North and South Poles.

LANCASTER FARMING  
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

PO Box 266 - Lititz, Pa. 17548

Office 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543

Phone Lancaster 394-3047 or Lititz 626-2191

Don Timmons, Editor

Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director

Subscription price \$2 per year in Lancaster County, \$3 elsewhere

Established November 4, 1955.

Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.

Second Class Postage paid at Lititz, Pa. 17548